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Don't Lose Your Way at Night

THE
SOLDIER'S
NIGHT GUIDE

FOR
**Northern France, Belgium
and the British Isles**

BY
"PATHFINDER"


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THE SOLDIER'S NIGHT GUIDE.

The natural method to find your way at night is from the heavens, and if you get into the habit of looking at the following guiding stars you soon know their respective paths and positions, and where they rise and set.

It will not only be a fascinating pastime and amusement when out at night, but you will find it exceedingly useful, and after a short time

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you have no difficulty in finding your way.

Stars rise EASTWARDS and set WESTWARDS, so if you face the rising stars your shoulders then point North and South—get behind any object, such as a building or tree, and you will easily see whether they are rising or setting. Should you only catch a momentary glance of one of the direction-stars given in this little book, you can obviously at once know your direction, and can find your way at night, without a MAP, WATCH, or COMPASS, as follows:—

On a fairly clear night suppose you arrive in a motor-bus at an unknown town in January, prior to an attack

by your regiment. You have no idea where you are and must rely solely on the heavens.

You look up as you are advancing, and see Regulus rising, so you know



you are going about East. After some time you are wounded in the shoulder, and want to get back to the dressing station, which is somewhere near the place you got out of the motor-bus—turn about with your back on Regulus, and your

right shoulder on the North Star, and you will be going about West, towards the Dressing Station, with Vega $\begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \end{pmatrix} *$ as a guide setting in the North-West.

Again in June you are sent on a message Eastwards — you see ALTAIR $\begin{pmatrix} * \\ * \end{pmatrix} *$ half-way up in the heavens, which gives you South-East. Half-left from ALTAIR will give you East. After a while it becomes second nature to judge your bearings at sight. If the buttons down the front of your coat are towards the North, or other direction stars, your right or left breasts give you roughly half a right or left angle

of 45 degrees from the star, and your shoulders a right angle. The stars mentioned in the little book are exceptionally large ones, and easily identified from PLANETS which do not twinkle, and each has its own distinctive appearance and COLOUR.

It is a very simple matter to pick them out, and then it is only a question of a little practice to know their courses. You can easily see when one of the direction-stars is FULL UP if you get behind a tree or building; you will then see it rising from the earth, or settling towards the earth. A quicker way, however, is to draw a rough line with your eye from the North through a spot im-

mediately above your head. If it is not on that line it is *not* FULL UP, and you can judge your bearing accordingly. You soon also get to know the appearance of the heavens at various times and seasons. For instance, ALTAIR is rising in the EAST as REGULUS sets in the WEST and conversely. Again ALTAIR is FULL UP when the giant star ARCTURUS (at the tail of the GREAT BEAR) is setting WESTWARDS. Also when ALTAIR commences to set it leans WESTWARDS, thus $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} * \\ * \end{smallmatrix} \right)$. As VEGA sets N.W., CASTOR takes its place about N.E. As ALTAIR sets ALDEBARAN and ORION take its

place in the EAST. A calendar giving the true direction of the largest stars in the heavens for every hour and month of the year, with a very simple star-chart is given in "Marching or Flying by Night Without a Compass," published by H. Rees, Ltd., 5 Regent Street, London, price 1/-, and sold by Gale and Polden, Ltd., and at all book-stalls, but for ordinary rough work the following will be all-sufficient, and if you take the smallest trouble to learn them by sight you cannot lose your way at night if any of them are visible.

When no stars are visible there are three ways by which you know your direction:—

1. By knowing the features of the ground, such as a village, church, hill, or wood, etc., over which one of your direction-stars pass, and where they rise and set.
2. Direction of wind and clouds.
3. Westwards is lighter than Eastwards for the earlier part of the night, and as daylight appears the Eastwards is lighter than the Westwards.

The North Star is practically always due North—with your left shoulder on the North Star you roughly face East, and your right shoulder points South. With your right shoulder on the North Star you

face West, and your left shoulder points South.

★ The North Star



★ Arcturus

If there are any clouds about it is very hard to distinguish the North Star, the following will be visible on a fairly clear night, and will give you your bearings in England and similar latitudes.

WINTER AND SPRING.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY,
AND MARCH.

Star.	Looking like.	Rising about.	Half up about.	Full up.	Half down about.	Setting about.	Remarks.
REGULUS ...	<div> <div> <div>*</div> <div>*</div> <div>*</div> </div> <div> <div>*</div> <div>*</div> </div> <div> <div>*</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>★</div> <div>Regulus</div> </div>	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	Looks like a hook or sickle in the heavens.
ALDEBARAN ...	A very large star rising just after the Pleiades, and earlier than Regulus.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	The Pleiades is the only large cluster of stars in the heavens.
CASTOR ...	<div> <div> <div>*</div> <div>*</div> </div> <div> <div>*</div> <div>*</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Castor.</div> <div>Pollux.</div> </div>	N.E.	E.	S.	W.	N.W.	Castor is the upper star of the heavenly twins (Castor and Pollux), which are both large stars close together.

SUMMER AND AUTUMN.

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER.

Star.	Looking like.	Rising about.	Half up about.	Full up.	Half down about.	Setting about.	Remarks.
VEGA ...	* * *	N.E.	E.	S.	W.	N.W.	Regulus, Castor and Aldebaran will still be visible westwards during the Spring.
ALTAIR ...	* * *	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	



